

### **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7, 29-32 and 58 are pending. In this Amendment claims 1, 7 and 29 are amended. No new matter is added.

Support for the above amendments to the specification is found in the originally filed specification at page 11, line 14 to page 2, line 19, page 13, line 7 to page 16, line 9, and in FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6C, 6D, and 9 as well as in the originally filed specification, drawings and claims.

Support for the above amendments to claims 1, 7, and 29 is found in the originally filed specification at page 11, line 14 to page 2, line 19, page 13, line 7 to page 16, line 9, and in FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6C, 6D, and 9 as well as in the originally filed specification, drawings and claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during a telephone interview on September 9, 2004 (1<sup>st</sup> Examiner Interview) and during a telephone interview on September 10, 2004 (2<sup>nd</sup> Examiner Interview) in which the outstanding rejections were discussed. Applicants' separate record of the substance of these two interviews is contained in the comments below.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Examiner Interview it was agreed that Applicants' application and drawings describe and show embodiments in which receptacles include channels for into which optical fibers of optical connectors extend when the optical connectors are inserted into the receptacles. Examples of such channels include fiber ferrules, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539 and openings 623 and 625. It was also agreed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Examiner Interview that Anderson's cells 110 do not include channels into which optical fibers would extend when optical connectors are inserted into Anderson's cells.

Claims 1-4, 7, 29-32 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,478,472 to Anderson *et al.* (Anderson). This rejection is obviated with respect to the claims as currently presented.

Claim 1 as currently presented claims a multi-optical receptacle assembly comprises of optical receptacles, wherein each of the optical receptacles includes two or more channels for two or more respective optical fibers of two or more respective optical connectors to extend into when the two or more respective optical connectors are inserted into each of said optical receptacles. In contrast, as agreed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Examiner Interview, Anderson does not describe or show an optical receptacle including channels for optical fibers. Therefore, Anderson cannot teach or suggest the multi-optical assembly of claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable over Anderson.

Claims 2-4 and 58 depend from claim 1, and, accordingly, include all of the patentable features of claim 1 as well as other patentable features. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 58 are patentable over Anderson for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 7 as currently presented claims a multi-optical receptacle assembly comprises of optical receptacles, wherein each of the optical receptacles includes two or more channels for two or more respective optical fibers of two or more respective optical connectors to extend into when the two or more respective optical connectors are inserted into each of said optical receptacles. In contrast, as agreed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Examiner Interview, Anderson does not describe or show an optical receptacle including channels for optical fibers. Therefore, Anderson cannot teach or suggest the multi-optical assembly of claim 7, and claim 7 is patentable over Anderson.

Claim 29 as currently presented claims a multi-optical receptacle assembly comprises of optical receptacles, wherein each of the optical receptacles includes two or more channels for two or more respective optical fibers of two or more respective optical connectors to extend into when the two or more respective optical connectors are inserted into each of said optical receptacles. In contrast, as agreed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Examiner Interview, Anderson does not describe or show an optical receptacle including channels for optical fibers. Therefore, Anderson cannot teach or suggest the multi-optical assembly of claim 29, and claim 29 is patentable over Anderson.

Claims 30-32 depend directly or indirectly from claim 29, and, accordingly, include all of the patentable features of claim 29 as well as other patentable features. Therefore, claims 30-32 are patentable over Anderson for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 29.

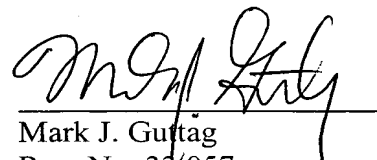
Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,478,472 to Anderson *et al.* (Anderson). This rejection is obviated with respect to the claims as currently presented.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and, accordingly, include all of the patentable features of claim 1 as well as other patentable features. Therefore, claims 5 and 6 are patentable over Anderson for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding the present response, the Examiner is invited to contact Mark J. Guttag at 703-591-2664, Ext. 2006.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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